Welcome to the Texas Legislative Update

Each week your Texas Pool and Spa Coalition ("TPSC") (aka APEC/APSP/IPSSA) lobbyists will send this helpful e-newsletter designed to keep you informed of happenings at the Texas Capitol during the 2019 Texas Legislative Session. The Texas Legislative Update will include summarized information of important weekly news items as well as links to relevant bills filed during the session. Please take a few minutes to review this information and, as always, contact us with your questions or comments.

Calendar for Week Ahead

- The House will reconvene at 1:15 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2019.
- The Senate will reconvene at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2019.

Headlines of the Week
Texas House approves major school finance reform package, adds teacher raises to the bill

By Aliyya Swaby, Texas Tribune

After more than three hours of discussion, the Texas House nearly unanimously passed a comprehensive bill to reform the way schools are funded and slow the growth of property tax bills.

House Bill 3 would increase base funding for each student by $890, fund full-day pre-K for low-income 4-year-olds in most school districts, compress tax rates for all districts and reduce the amount of money wealthier districts pay the state in recapture payments to shore up poorer districts. Because Democrats spearheaded a change in the bill, it would also provide across-the-board raises for all full-time school employees who are not administrators.

"We are finally reforming public education in Texas, and not by court order, so that's a pretty important thing," said the bill's author, Rep. Dan Huberty, a Republican who chairs the House Public Education Committee. The vast majority of House lawmakers signed on to the bill as co-authors. Rep. Jonathan Stickland, R-Bedford, was the lone no vote.
The bill will now make its way to the Senate. The upper chamber last week increased the amount it had planned to set aside for public education and property tax reform to match the House's original proposal. While House leaders have pitched a single comprehensive school finance bill and edited it over time, the Senate has taken a more winding path to legislating on this issue.

One key sticking point between the two chambers: teacher pay. The Senate has approved a bill proposing $5,000 across-the-board raises for Texas teachers. The House has advocated for more flexibility for school districts in teacher salaries, but the bill was amended Wednesday to give all school employees across-the-board raises of about $1,388 on average statewide and designate additional money for raises to be given at districts' discretion. The amounts would vary district by district based on student and employee counts, according to the office of Rep. Chris Turner, D-Grand Prairie, who filed the amendment.

As originally proposed by Huberty, HB 3 would put $6.3 billion into public education and $2.7 billion toward slowing the growth of school district property taxes. It is unclear exactly what the new cost of the bill is, with the amendments passed.

Debate on the floor was largely civil and lacked a lot of the drama that usually accompanies business on such large pieces of legislation. Rep. Matt Schaefer, R-Tyler, a member of the hardline conservative faction of the House, needled Huberty on the floor over how exactly HB 3 would ensure tax bills wouldn't balloon in the future, even while property values continue to skyrocket.

"There is real property tax relief in this bill, but my point is that I don't see how it doesn't get washed out very quickly," Schaefer said.

Schaefer joined the vast majority of members in approving the bill Wednesday.

Many House lawmakers withdrew their amendments, including a couple of controversial ones to reduce funding for some charter schools and add a state-funded merit pay program.
Republican Gov. Greg Abbott applauded the bill's progress, saying it was a vital step toward the goal of meaningful reform.

"The Legislature is making changes that will have a lasting impact on our education system, and more importantly, our students," he said in a statement.

The most notable amendment Wednesday was the teacher pay raise provision filed by Turner, the House Democratic Caucus Chair. It would require school districts to use some of the extra money they receive in the bill to give the pay raises. It appears to serve as an attempt to compromise on an issue that quickly became a fault line between the House and Senate on how to spend money on schools.

Until Wednesday, Republican House Speaker Dennis Bonnen has said he would prefer to give school districts flexibility on how to use additional funding and that he does not favor a key Senate proposal for $5,000 teacher pay raises.

"This is a sustainable way of providing increased compensation to our teachers and other employees," Turner said Wednesday afternoon, explaining his amendment to his peers in the House. "It establishes a floor, but it requires every school district to spend at least 25 percent of its basic allotment increase on pay raises. They can go beyond that if they wish to."

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, the Republican president of the Senate, has prioritized $5,000 across-the-board teacher pay raises over other measures to improve school finance. Since his January inauguration, he has championed legislation that would provide such raises. That $4 billion piece of legislation, Senate Bill 3, passed unanimously out of the Senate last month.

On Wednesday, Patrick's office praised the House for adding mandatory teacher pay raises to the bill.

"The lieutenant governor believes that aside from a parent, nothing has more impact on the success of a child than a teacher - and he appreciates that the House has taken a first step toward an across-the-board pay raise," said Alejandro Garcia, a Patrick spokesman.
Turner’s amendment would not add to the cost of HB 3, but rather would mandate school districts to use a quarter of the additional base funding per student to provide raises for school district employees who are not administrators - with the majority going to across-the-board raises for full-time employees and the rest going to discretionary raises. This provision would apply any time the Legislature raises the base funding per student in the future.

The raises backed by the House would also go to support staff, costing about $2.4 billion, according to Turner’s office. The Senate’s proposed raises would be for teachers and librarians only.

Rep. Richard Peña Raymond, D-Laredo, had planned to propose a provision similar to the Senate’s that would give full-time teachers, librarians, counselor and nurses $5,000 pay raises. But he chose to pull it down and publicly support Turner’s amendment instead.

The Senate Finance Committee voted out a version of its budget Wednesday that also includes $2.3 billion for school finance reform - but the Senate does not have a clear plan outlined for how to deliver that money to schools. It also includes $2.7 billion for property tax relief, but it’s still unclear how the upper chamber’s proposal would apply, if at all, to school districts.
The Senate was in session Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of last week. On Thursday, they had Senate Reunion Day honoring former Senate members.

On **Monday**, the Senate gave preliminary approval to one bill and passed four bills including:

- **SB 361** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) banning pet leasing;
- **SB 395** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) cleaning up filing and notice procedures in courts with mental health jurisdiction.
- **SB 749** by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) updating levels of care designations for neonatal and maternal care hospitals.
- **SB 1082** by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) creating a joint interim committee to study the feasibility and desirability of creating a coastal barrier system. *(additional information is in the Property section)*

On **Tuesday**, the Senate gave preliminary approval to one bill and passed 5 bills including:

- **SB 22** by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) prohibiting taxpayer dollars from funding abortion providers.
- **SB 193** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) waiving handgun licensing fees for school marshals.
- **SB 201** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) increasing criminal penalties for offenses committed in a disaster area.
- **SB 1041** by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) extending the deadline for the Texas Water Development Board to designate brackish groundwater production zones. *(additional information is in the Environment section)*
- **SB 2191** by John Whitmire (D-Houston) restricting the transfer of a juvenile to an out-of-state contract correctional facility.

**SR 535** - The Senate also debated and ultimately passed **SR 535** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) declaring the crisis on the Texas-Mexico International Border an emergency and supporting the president in his efforts to move forward with
emergency action. A Senate floor amendment by Jose Rodriguez (D-El Paso) requests the federal government to cease separating families at the border as a means of deterring refugees and to humanely process refugee and asylum seekers. SR 535 passed by a vote of 19 to 12 along party lines with Republicans voting for and Democrats voting against.

**Senator Paul Bettencourt** (R-Houston) said, "There is a crisis on the border by every measurement that I understand. It is time to recognize the obvious. DHS has reported that there have been 100,000 interdictions at the border in just one month. It is time to declare this crisis the emergency that it is. The failure of Washington, DC to do their job has created an undue burden on the backs of Texas taxpayers. Texans recognize that we have a crisis at the border and that speaking out is important. It is past time for us to speak out on this issue and it is past time for the Federal government to do their job and secure the border."

**Lt. Governor Dan Patrick** said, "The Texas Senate adopted Senate Resolution 535 today to make it crystal clear to Congress that the crisis at the border is very real. This past weekend, border officials announced what was obvious to millions of Texans - the situation at the border is at the breaking point. President Trump is right that emergency action must be taken immediately, including increasing personnel, enhancing technology and building barriers where they are needed. For those of us who live in this state with 1,254 miles of border, the fact of this emergency is not debatable. In Texas, we are calling on Congress to take immediate action to secure the border."

**Senator Jose Rodriguez** (D-El Paso) also commented saying, "SR 535 vilifies border communities and immigrants by repeating false narratives that conflate crimes against persons and property with immigration, and mischaracterizing refugees seeking asylum as a threat to our national security. If there is a crisis on the border, it is a humanitarian crisis created by the Trump administration.

The author of the resolution chose to make this a partisan issue; he only asked Republican members to joint author the resolution. Senate leadership also chose to circumvent the usual process of holding a committee hearing on a substantive
resolution where members and the public have notice and the opportunity to participate. Instead, the resolution was laid out on members’ desks mere minutes before being taken up on the Senate floor. This procedural move sets a bad precedent for the Senate and may serve as a slippery slope for further resolutions seeking to make these types of declarations. There was one bright spot - I offered an amendment to urge the federal government not to separate families as a means of deterring asylum seekers, and to ensure humane treatment of asylum seekers, which was ultimately accepted. Nonetheless, I am disappointed that many of my Senate colleagues have allowed this resolution to be taken up in a manner that is contrary to the traditions of the Texas Senate."

SB 22 - Comments about the passage of SB 22 include:

Senator Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) said, "Texas taxpayers shouldn’t be forced to subsidize the abortion industry with their tax dollars. Abortion providers unnaturally end the lives of almost 60,000 of our tiniest and vulnerable Texans every year. That fact alone should make them ineligible to receive tax dollars. I’m proud of the 20 colleagues in the Senate who joined me on this important bill."

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick said, "There is nothing more important than defending the defenseless. SB 22, authored by Senator Campbell, will continue Texas' commitment to defend the most vulnerable in our society and preserve the sanctity of life. SB 22 protects Texas taxpayers and affirms Texas' commitment to protecting life. I strongly support this legislation and congratulate Senator Campbell for carrying this important bill."

Planned Parenthood Executive Director Yvonne Gutierrez said, "What we saw at the Capitol today is legislators putting politics before the health and rights of their constituents. It is incredibly disappointing to see history repeating itself and extremist politicians failing to learn from their past mistakes in limiting health care access. In the state with the highest uninsured rate in the country, where access to women’s health care has already been decimated by politicians, local governmental entities should be making every resource available to the community - not eliminating them."

On Wednesday, the Senate gave preliminary approval to one bill and passed nine bills including:
• SB 17 by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) prohibiting an occupational licensing board from restricting a professional's exercise of a sincerely held religious belief. *(additional information is in the Human Resources/Employment section)*

• SB 406 by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) eliminating the requirement for school marshals to store his/her handgun in a locked and secure safe. *(additional information is in the Public Education section)*

• SB 475 by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) establishing the Texas Electric Grid Security Council. *(additional information is in the Energy section)*

• SB 477 by Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) making all school marshal licenses expire on August 31.

• SB 522 by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) requiring the individualized education plans for students with visual impairment to include braille instruction. *(additional information is in the Public Education section)*

• SB 586 by Kirk Watson (D-Austin) requiring peace officer training on child abuse, family violence, and sexual assault, including best practices and trauma-informed techniques.

• SB 1113 by Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) clarifying the procedure to obtain waivers for emergency mosquito control through pesticide application.

• SB 1324 by Larry Taylor (R-Friendswood) requiring dual credit students to file a degree plan after completing 15 hours of dual credit. *(additional information is in the Higher Education section)*

• SB 1564 by Royce West (D-Dallas) allowing health care practitioners to prescribe opioid antagonists.

SB 17 - Dan Patrick commented on SB 17 saying, "SB 17 will ensure that no Texan will ever have to choose between their job and their faith. Preserving religious liberty has, and will always be, one of my top priorities, and I congratulate Sen. Perry on passing this important legislation. SB 17 will protect Texans of all religious faiths."

Texas Values Action - Senior Policy Analyst Nicole Hudgens said, "No Texas professional should fear the government taking away their livelihood because of their faith. We applaud Senator Charles Perry for his work to protect religious freedom for Texas license holders. The Texas Professionals Protection
Act, SB 17 ensures the government cannot punish a licensed professional by revoking or denying a license or certificate because of a person's sincerely held religious belief or because of their membership in a religious organization."

**Texas Freedom Network** President Kathy Miller commented on the passage of SB 17 saying, "This bill lets licensed professionals and the businesses they operate use religion to treat gay and transgender Texans like outcasts and second-class citizens and bars a licensing agency from doing virtually anything to prevent it. It's tragic to see the Texas Senate once again vote to turn religion into a license to discriminate against people simply because of who they are or whom they love. The Senate under Lt. Governor Patrick has twisted religious freedom, a founding American value, into a weapon to hurt people. The House should reject this sweeping, misguided discrimination bill and stand up for treating all Texans as equal under the law."

On **Thursday**, the Senate gave preliminary approval to one bill and passed 27 bills including:

- **SB 14** by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) authorizing electric cooperatives to provide broadband services. (**additional information is in the Telecommunications section**)
- **SB 59** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) allowing unmanned aircraft to capture images in connection with delivery of consumer goods. (**additional information is in the Privacy section**)
- **SB 71** by Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound) establishing a statewide telehealth center for sexual assault forensic medical examination. (**additional information is in the Health section**)
- **SB 235** by Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound) allowing the City of Corinth to establish a fire control, prevention and emergency medical services district.
- **SB 285** by Borris Miles (D-Houston) establishing a public information campaign for distributing hurricane preparedness and assistance information. (**additional information is in the Statewide section**)
- **SB 300** by Borris Miles (D-Houston) requiring the General Land Office to enter into indefinite quantity contracts in preparation for a natural disaster.
• **SB 421** by Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) is a major eminent domain reform bill. *(additional information is in the Property section)*
• **SB 555** by Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown) requiring the condemning entity to pay the penalty for conversion of agricultural land to developed property. *(additional information is in the Property section)*
• **SB 568** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) creating the Safety Training Account to provide safety training materials to child care facilities.
• **SB 601** by Bob Hall (R-Edgewood) is the sunset bill for the Texas Veterans Commission.
• **SB 615** by Dawn Buckingham (R-Lakeway) is the sunset bill for the Finance Commission of Texas, the Texas Department of Banking and the Department of Savings and Mortgage Lending.
• **SB 621** by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) transferring regulation of plumbing to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.
• **SB 624** by Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) is the sunset bill for the Texas Real Estate Commission and the Texas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board.
• **SB 646** by Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) providing a procedure for self-directed semi-independent agencies to purchase property or undertake construction projects.
• **SB 674** by Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) exempting charter schools from municipal drainage requirements. *(additional information is in the Public Education section)*
• **SB 790** by Dawn Buckingham (R-Lakeway) removing the comptroller from the list of entities required to receive audits and reports from regional planning commissions.
• **SB 812** by Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) limiting appraisal of property damaged in a disaster.
• **SB 925** by Pete Flores (R-Floresville) clarifying eligibility for low-producing gas wells and oil leases tax credit. *(additional information is in the Tax section)*
• **SB 936** by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) allowing electric utilities to recover costs associated with cybersecurity monitoring. *(additional information is in the Energy section)*
• **SB 971** by Joan Huffman (R-Houston) requiring training for law enforcement officers on how to recognize signs of strangulation.

• **SB 988** by Kirk Watson (D-Austin) establishing the standard for awarding court costs and attorney fees in actions under the public information law. (*additional information is in the Tort section*)

• **SB 1010** by Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) restricting groundwater conservation districts from adopting rules that are dissimilar to other groundwater conservation district rules if the districts overlap with the same aquifer.

• **SB 1012** by Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo) clarifying that municipally owned utilities and co-ops can own and operate batteries without having to register as a power generation company. (*additional information is in the Energy section*)

• **SB 1152** by Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) requiring telecommunications providers that provide telephone and cable service over the same line to pay the city the larger of the right-of-way fees. (*additional information is in the Telecommunications section*)

• **SB 1231** by Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) requiring the Department of Family and Protective Services to report to public and private schools investigations of alleged child abuse involving an employee of the school.

• **SB 1574** by Carol Alvarado (D-Houston) eliminating obsolete and duplicative requirements of the Texas Water Development Board.

• **SB 2190** by John Whitmire (D-Houston) allowing juvenile offenders to be housed in facilities that were previously intended for adults.

**SB 14 - Lt. Governor Dan Patrick** commented on the passage of SB 14 saying, "I commend Senator Nichols and the Texas Senate on the passage of SB 14, which will help expand broadband infrastructure deeper into rural Texas. SB 14 will make sure that all Texans have access to the Internet. It’s key to providing our students a better education and creating jobs by ensuring businesses a better connection with the rest of Texas, the country and the world."

**Total number of bills reported out of Senate Committees this week:**122
Total number of bills passed by the Senate this week: 45
Total number of bills passed by the Senate this session: 117

This Week: The Senate will reconvene at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2019.

The House

The House was in session Monday through Friday of last week. They debated bills every day. On Friday, they had House Reunion Day honoring former House members.

On Monday, the House gave preliminary approval to eight bills.

On Tuesday, the House passed eight bills to third reading and gave final approval to 17 including:

- **HB 88** by Valoree Swanson ((R-Spring) preserving ballot order in run-off and tie-resolving elections.
- **HB 101** by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) making false caller ID display a crime. *(additional information isn in the Telecommunications section)*
• **HB 303** by Dennis Paul (R-Webster) allowing Houston to create a spaceport development corporation. *(additional information is in the Economic Development section)*

• **HB 374** by Alma Allen (D-Houston) requiring probation officers to consider probationers' work, treatment, and community service schedules.

• **HB 405** by Ina Minjarez (D-San Antonio) designating June as Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Awareness Month.

• **HB 440** by Jim Murphy (R-Houston) requiring approval to spend bond proceeds. *(additional information is in the Budget section)*

• **HB 678** by Ryan Guillen (D-Rio Grande City) earning academic credit for American Sign Language in elementary school. *(additional information is in the Public Education section)*

• **HB 785** by Matt Shaheen (R-Plano) executing warrants issued for parolees under super-intensive supervision.

• **HB 807** by Lyle Larson (R-San Antonio) establishing an interregional water planning council. *(additional information is in the Environmental section)*

• **HB 826** by John Zerwas (R-Fulshear) establishing the University of Houston College of Medicine. *(additional information is in the Higher Education section)*

• **HB 1067** by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) allowing election authorities to remove a deceased candidate's name from the ballot if the candidate died before the filing deadline or before the ballots were prepared.

• **HB 1264** by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) removing the expiration on the requirement for a pharmacist to communicate to a prescribing practitioner about a biological product dispensed to a patient.

• **HB 1418** by Dade Phelan (R-Nederland) requiring immunization information to be provided to EMS personnel.

• **HB 1849** by Stephanie Klick (R-Fort Worth) allowing physicians to dispense epinephrine injectors to day care centers.

• **HB 2179** by John Wray (R-Waxahachie) revising the process to remove appraisal review board members. *(additional information is in the Tax section)*

• **HB 2223** by John Frullo (R-Lubbock) exempting retail scales for ready-to-eat food from regulations.
• **HB 2243** by Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) allowing schools to stock asthma medicine and administer it to students.

On **Wednesday**, the House passed 10 bills including:

• **HB 3** by Dan Huberty (R-Humble) is the public school finance reform bill. *(additional information is in the Public Education section)*
• **HB 27** by Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) increasing the penalty for assault of a federal law enforcement officer.
• **HB 539** by Ben Leman (R-Brenham) granting automatic university admission to valedictorians regardless of class size. *(additional information is in the Higher Education section)*
• **HB 1066** by Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) coordinating transfer of groundwater permits. *(additional information is in the Environment section)*
• **HB 1241** by John Bucy (D-Austin) requiring building names and street addresses on polling location notices.
• **HB 1254** by Jim Murphy (R-Houston) repealing the prohibition on designating land secured by a home equity loan for agriculture use *(additional information is in the Tax section)*
• **HB 1385** by Tracy King (D-Batesville) repealing the maximum height limit for industrialized housing and buildings.
• **HB 1422** by Chris Paddie (R-Marshall) is the sunset bill for the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner. *(additional information is in the General Business section)*
• **HB 1520** by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) is the sunset bill for the State Board of Public Accountancy. *(additional information is in the General Business section)*
• **HB 1550** by Chris Paddie (R-Marshall) is the sunset "safety net" bill.

**HB 3 - House Democratic Caucus Chairman** Chris Turner (D-Grand Prairie), who offered the compromise amendment on educator and school employee compensation said, "There's been a lot of talk this session about raising teacher pay and a lot of disagreement on the best way to do it. This amendment strikes the perfect balance by giving a uniform raise to teachers and support staff, making pay increases
Governor Greg Abbott commented on passage of HB 3 saying, "Texans are demanding meaningful reforms to our school finance system, and today's passage of HB 3 in the House is a vital step toward that goal. By reducing recapture, investing more money in our schools and in our teachers, the Legislature is making changes that will have a lasting impact on our education system, and more importantly, our students. I applaud Chairman Huberty and Speaker Bonnen for their work to pass this bill, and I look forward to working with Senator Taylor, Lt. Governor Patrick, and the entire Legislature to ensure the final passage of school finance reform this session."

Texas American Federation of Teachers President Louis Malfaro said, "The House plan for educator pay is a common-sense solution that lets school districts increase the pay for all school employees, and we're pleased that the bill now guarantees those raises locally. It means that in the future, whenever we provide more funding for our students, we ensure that the team that educates them also is recognized and supported. This bill is a building block for what's needed to keep funding the future of our state by providing the immediate resources our schools, students and educators need - and it's a big block, no doubt about it. We see this as something that we can and should build upon on each session to make sure our kids and their teachers have the ongoing support they need."

On Thursday, the House passed 15 bills to Third Reading.

On Friday, the House gave final approval to those 15 bills including:

- **HB 293** by Ken King (R-Canadian) exempting city and school district officials from investment training if their city or school only invests in interest-bearing accounts. *(additional information is in the Public Education section)*
- **HB 674** by Jared Patterson (R-Frisco) requiring solicitation of feedback on state mandates for school
districts. (additional information is in the Public Education section)

- **HB 833** by Ana Hernandez (D-Houston) establishing an alert system for missing military members.

- **HB 853** by Joe Moody (D-El Paso) allowing investor-owned utilities in non-ERCOT areas to recover advanced metering costs. (additional information is in the Energy section)

- **HB 986** by Four Price (R-Amarillo) allowing non-ERCOT utilities in the Southwestern Public Service Company area to recover advanced metering costs. (additional information is in the Energy section)

- **HB 1286** by John Smithee (R-Amarillo) establishing a guardianship abuse, fraud, and exploitation deterrence program.

- **HB 1311** by Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) is the sunset bill for the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists.

- **HB 1326** by Dan Flynn (R-Van) is the sunset bill for the Texas Military Department.

- **HB 1397** by Dade Phelan (R-Nederland) allowing utilities to adjust rates for power-generation investments. (additional information is in the Energy section)

- **HB 1422** by Chris Paddie (R-Marshall) is the sunset bill for the Texas Historical Commission.

- **HB 1595** by Chris Paddie (R-Marshall) allowing non-ERCOT utilities in the Southwest Power Pool area to recover advanced metering costs. (additional information is in the Energy section)

- **HB 1628** by Geanie Morrison (R-Victoria) allowing counties to adopt rules for beach use.

- **HB 1872** by Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) redacting judges' addresses from financial statements filed with counties. (additional information is in the Privacy section)

- **HB 2709** by John Frullo (R-Lubbock) eliminating the requirement for legislative approval for the sale of Texas Tech land.

- **HB 2867** by Will Metcalf (R-Conroe) establishing the Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. (additional information is in the Higher Education section)
Total number of bills reported out of House Committees this week: 195

Total number of bills passed by the House this week: 42

Total number of bills passed by House this session: 76

This Week: The House will reconvene at 1:15 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2019.

Key Legislation and Bills of Interest

**HB 125** by **Martinez** - Relating to the online publication of home addresses of certain occupational license holders.

- Prevents TDLR from publishing home addresses of a licensee.

**HB 191** by **Stephenson** - Relating to the disposal of pesticides.

- Chlorine, oxidizers and containers related thereto are subject to the bill.

**HB 218** and **HB 258** by **Krause/Blanco** - Relating to the abolition of student loan default or breach of a student loan repayment or scholarship contract as a ground for non-renewal or other disciplinary action in relation to a professional or occupational license.
• Eliminates the ability to deny/revoke a license based on student loan debt default.

HB 1153 by White - Relating to the consequences of a criminal conviction on a person’s eligibility for an occupational license; charging a fee.

• This legislation makes it harder to revoke.terminate an occupational license based on a criminal conviction.

HB 966 by Dutton - Relating to providing a sales and use tax refund or franchise tax credit for businesses that employ certain apprentices.

• Potential for tax deductions based on certain apprenticeship and training programs.

HB 1857 by Goldman - Relating to an exemption from the plumbing licensing law for plumbing work performed on certain private property.

HB 1868 by Lozano - Relating to the creation of the Texas Rural Water Advisory Council.

HB 1924 by Blanco - Relating to state agency enforcement of laws regulating small businesses.

• Allows a small business the opportunity to remedy first-time violations of agency rules.

HB 2031 by Turner - Relating to a statewide water conservation public awareness program.

HB 2147 by Dutton - Relating to the availability of financial information of nonprofit corporations for public inspection.

HB 2452 by Goldman - Relating to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation complaint review process.

HB 2850 by Goldman - Relating to the confidentiality of complaints and investigations in certain occupational licensing programs of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.
HB 2858 by Toth - Relating to adoption of a swimming pool and spa code for use in municipalities in this state.

HB 2858 was heard in House Urban Affairs for Thursday, April 4th. Representatives from TPSC, APSP, APEC and others showed up to testify at the hearing. Photos and additional information will be shared in future posts!

HB 3622 by Paddie - Relating to the adoption of certain plumbing codes by the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners.

HB 4112 by Paddie - Relating to the review of certain occupational licensing rules by the office of the governor.

HB 4608 by White - Relating to the authority of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to contract with municipalities and counties to perform inspections of electrical work.

SB 685 by Alvarado - Relating to providing a sales and use tax refund or franchise tax credit for businesses that employ certain apprentices.

- Potential for tax deductions based on certain apprenticeship and training programs.

SB 783 by Hinojosa - Relating to state agency enforcement of laws regulating small businesses.

- Allows a small business the opportunity to remedy first-time violations of agency rules.

SB 787 by Hancock - Relating to a reduced licensing fee for certain former license holders.

SB 964 by Alvarado - Relating to certain plumbing, air conditioning, and electrical services performed as a volunteer during a disaster.

SB 1106 by Buckingham - Relating to the adoption of certain plumbing codes by the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners.
**SB 1995** by Birdwell - Relating to the review of certain occupational licensing rules by the office of the governor.

**Keep Track of the Texas Legislature**

To keep track of bills or access legislative information for this or previous sessions, visit [Texas Legislature Online](http://www.capitol.texas.gov) (TLO).

To learn more about the Texas State Senate and its activities, visit the [Texas State Senate](http://www.capitol.texas.gov) website.

To learn more about the Texas House of Representatives and its activities, visit the [Texas House of Representatives](http://www.capitol.texas.gov) website.

Thank you for taking the time to read our Texas Legislative Update e-newsletter. We look forward to providing weekly news and information important to each of you while working to make the 86th Legislative Session a very successful one for the Texas Pool and Spa Coalition!

**Sincerely,**

Jake Posey and Steve Koebele

*Your TPSC Lobby Team*